

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

Claims 1-14, 17-18, 20 and 21 are pending and under consideration.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 1-3, 7-11, 13, 17-18 and 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Eyer (U.S. Patent 5,982,411).

Using independent claim 1 as an example, this claim recites "automatically displaying . . . minor channel numbers . . . and a number of the major channel." Thus, the minor channel numbers and the major channel number are displayed. These features are shown, for example, in present FIG. 3. This FIG. illustrates that the major channel number (2) and the minor channel numbers (2-1, 2-2, 2-3 and 2-4) are displayed.

An advantage of the invention of claim 1 is that the user can easily select between the minor channels. This is because the user knows the number of minor channels corresponding to the major channel. Also, if the user wishes to change to a different minor channel, the user simply has to select the number of that channel from the displayed minor channels.

The Examiner refers to column 4, lines 22-28 of the reference. This portion does not discuss the display of channel numbers. Instead, this portion states that it is easy for a user to navigate programs which are grouped according to a common service provider by depressing channel up/channel down keys. Thus, the reference discusses the channel changing operation, not the display of the channel numbers as they are changed.

The Examiner also refers to column 5, lines 1-30 of the reference. This portion discusses which channel will be displayed in response to channel up/down inputs. Specifically, Eyer discloses that when a primary channel is the current channel and the viewer provides a channel up command, the next channel which will be displayed is one of the secondary channels. Eyer, col. 5, ln. 33-37. However, there is no discussion as to whether the major channel number and minor channel numbers are displayed.

The Examiner also refers to column 9, line 65 to column 10, line 8 of the reference. This portion states that a display may be provided to inform the user of the number designations of related channels. For example, channels ABC-1, ABC-2 and ABC-3 are designated respectively

as 10.1, 10.2 and 10.3. However, there is no discussion of when and how these channel numbers are displayed. Thus, there is no disclosure that the major channel number and the minor channel numbers are displayed.

Finally, the Examiner refers to column 10, lines 1-10 as disclosing features of dependent claims 3, 20 and 21. These claims recite displaying the minor channel number after the major channel number (claim 3) and simultaneous displaying the selected minor channel number and a non-selected minor channel number (claim 20) or all of the minor channel numbers (claim 21).

As discussed above, lines 1-7 only discuss the numbering scheme of the minor channel numbers and displaying an explanation of the numbering scheme. There is no disclosure that the minor channel numbers are displayed simultaneously or with the major channel number. Lines 8-10 state that the channel group can be maintained even when the channel moves to a different frequency spectrum. This does not relate to the display of the channel numbers.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Eyer, in view of Etheredge (U.S. Patent 6,172,674). Claims 12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Eyer, in view of Keenan (U.S. Patent 5,161,023).

Etheredge and Keenan do not overcome the above deficiencies in Eyer, and are not relied upon by the Examiner to do so. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

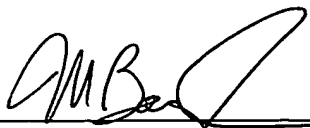
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Response, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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